

FALL COLLECTING

Henry Dietrich, Cornell University

Many interesting beetles are collected in the Fall. Many of the ground beetles or Carabidae seem to be quite plentiful under stones and other cover. In the vicinity of Ithaca, Sphaeroderus lecontei is very common at this time and may be taken in mating pairs in the woods under stones. Judging by the labels, collecting of Cychrini in the Great Smokies of Tennessee and North Carolina must be very good too at this time of year. Beating and sweeping are still productive on warm days. Many weevils come to the ends of the grass and other vegetation in swamps and may be taken by sweeping. It also is an excellent time of year for sifting. But be sure it is a sunny day and spread your cloth in the sun so that the sun's rays cause the beetles to move and you can see them. Further, at this time of year you will find groups of fungi on the forest floor; dig under them and you are very likely to find species of Geotrupes. By breaking up the fungus over a sheet, you will find Derodontidae, which are always rare as well as several species of Oxyporus of the Staphylinidae. Sifting sphagnum, especially from the mountain tops is very good at this time of year, but it is best to gather the sphagnum in burlap sacks and bring it down to lower levels and let it warm up before sifting in the sun. Several sacks of sphagnum brought down from Mt. Whiteface had a nice series of Leiodidae besides other small beetles.

LARVAE

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A collection of larvae is an interesting addition to any collection of beetles. But it takes a little practice to keep the larvae in their natural color. Bring the larvae in alive and then drop them in water that is at a boiling temperature and leave them for a couple of minutes or more depending on their size. Large larvae it is wise to prick with a minuten nadel in several places. Then drop in a solution made as follows:

95% alcohol (ethyl)	280 cc
Distilled water	230 cc
Benzol	35 cc
Ethyl acetate	95 cc

Leave in the above solution overnight and then preserve in 75-80% ethyl alcohol. Do not use too small a vial as they dry out too soon. We use the 4 dram. vial as standard. Labels for alcoholic specimens may be typed on a typewriter provided a grey ribbon is used. The ordinary black ribbon will run.